

Revenue Survey and Assessment.

No. 6303.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 5th December 1878.

Despatch from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for India,
No. 25, dated 24th October 1878 :—

"The correspondence relative to the revision of the assessment in 130 villages of the old Ránebennur Táluka in the Dhárwár Collectorate, forwarded with your Chief Secretary's letter of the 12th July, No. 28 of 1878, has been considered by me in Council.

"2. The whole tract has been re-measured, and the general result is that the old measurement has been fairly verified. Under the former survey the area was 304,559, under the present survey it is 306,276, the difference being 1,717 acres, or a little more than a small fraction above $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the whole acreage. By making each occupancy in a survey number, a separate and distinct number, the survey numbers have been increased from 12,438 to 19,839, but each occupancy being thus rendered an independent and recognized holding a great source of confusion and disagreement has been closed.

"3. Colonel Anderson describes the táluka as essentially a dry-crop tract, the prevailing products being jowári, tur, wheat, oil seeds, and cotton. The New Orleans variety of cotton is more largely grown than the native variety, and thrives well. Whatever rice there is is mostly grown in the western villages. In only five villages are there tanks of considerable size. It is well supplied with roads, whereas thirty years ago there was not a mile of made road in the táluka. All the present roads carry a very heavy cart traffic during the greater part of the year. There are also many local roads, connecting large markets, of which there are three large ones, Byadgi, Ránebennur, and Guttal. There are also cart tracts in abundance, which make good fair weather roads.

"4. In paragraphs 30 to 33 of his report, Colonel Anderson gives some interesting details relative to the rise of prices in cereals, oil seeds, and especially in cotton, and in paragraphs 34 and 35 some statements as to the occupation of Government lands before and after the old settlement. Of these it will be sufficient to mention, as indicative of the marked progress of the táluka under the survey settlement, that in 1847-48, the year of the introduction of the settlement, the occupied area amounted to 65,196 acres, and the assessment to Rs. 78,095, the remissions to Rs. 20,905, and the collections to Rs. 57,190, while in 1875-76 the occupied area was 156,193 acres, and the assessment Rs. 1,55,228, the whole of which was collected.

"5. When the old survey was made by Captain (now Sir George) Wingate, in 1847-48, the whole tract was in a very depressed condition, and that able officer saw that it required careful nursing and indulgence. He accordingly divided the táluka into two groups. On the first, or western, group he imposed a maximum rate of assessment of Rs. 1-6-0

per acre ; on the second, or eastern group, a maximum assessment of Rs. 1-4-0 per acre ; on rice land a maximum rate of Rs. 5 per acre ; and on garden land a maximum of Rs. 15 per acre. Colonel Anderson proposed to divide the táluka into four groups, as follows :—

- I.—35 villages, a maximum of Rs. 2 per acre.
- II.—24 villages, a maximum of Rs. 1-12-0 per acre.
- III.—63 villages, a maximum of Rs. 1-10-0 per acre.
- IV.—8 villages, a maximum of Rs. 1-6-0 per acre.

“For rice lands an uniform rate of Rs. 8 per acre. Experience showed Captain Wingate that he had under-rated the productive powers of these lands, and, in tálukas subsequently settled, he adopted rates as high as Rs. 8 per acre. On garden land, Colonel Anderson proposes a maximum of Rs. 12, explaining that though Captain Wingate proposed a maximum of Rs. 15, it was never actually imposed, and in only three instances was more than Rs. 12 demanded. In fact, Captain Wingate suggested Rs. 15, because the old rate before the settlement now expiring was Rs. 40 per acre.

“6. The increased rates proposed by Colonel Anderson are justified by the general improvement in the táluka, the contiguity of the villages to good roads, the increase of prices, and the considerable proportion of very superior land. Four-fifths of the arable land are now in occupation, and are shown to have a good saleable value. The proposed assessments will raise the Government demand from Rs. 1,15,035 to Rs. 1,61,177, an increase of Rs. 46,142, or 40·1 per cent. This increase appears to be fully justified by the present condition and future prospects of these villages.

“7. The new settlement has been approved by the Colloctor of Dhárwár, by the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, and by your Excellency in Council. In granting my sanction to it, I desire that an expression of my approbation may be conveyed to Colonel Anderson for his able report. I also notice with great satisfaction the careful manner in which Mr. Wingate has prepared the statistics attached to the report.”

RESOLUTION.—To be communicated to the officers concerned, with reference to Government Resolution No. 1546, dated 26th March 1878.

E. W. RAVENSCROFT,
Chief Secretary to Government.

To

The Commissioner, S. D.
The Survey and Settlement Commissioner, S. D.,
The Collector of Dhárwár.